

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 60 are pending in the present Application. Claims 11 – 20, 31 – 40, and 51 – 60 were previously withdrawn.

Claims 41 – 50 have been indicated as allowable subject matter; objected to as being dependent upon a rejected basic claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

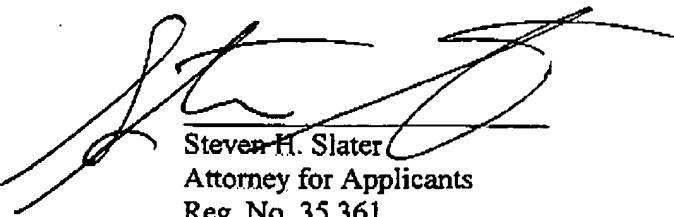
Each of the rejected claims, 1 – 20 and 21 – 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0136676 to Liu ("Liu") as a primary reference, in combination with two or more other references.

Liu was first published on June 23, 2005 – well after the February 10, 2004, filing date of the present application. As such, Liu qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants respectfully direct Examiner's attention to the Statement of Common Ownership submitted on January 24, 2006 (receipt of which was confirmed by the Patent Office on January 24, 2006, a copy of which is attached hereto for Examiner's convenience), which Statement establishes that at the time the invention of claims 1 – 20 and 21 – 30 was made, Liu and the present application were owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to a common assignee. Under 35 U.S.C. 103(c), "Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same

person." Because Liu is 102(e) art that was commonly owned with the present application, Section 103(c) precludes Liu as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the address below.

Respectfully submitted,



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